



# Queensland Engineering Hall of Fame Inductee

## Jack Laracy

*FIEAust*

1936-2021  
INDUCTED IN 2023

Jack Laracy, born on April 16, 1936, in Brisbane, embarked on a remarkable journey marked by academic excellence and contributions to the field of engineering. Graduating as the Dux of Marist Brothers College, Ashgrove, in 1953, he excelled not only in academics but also in sports, particularly rugby, swimming, and athletics. Post-schooling, he pursued Mechanical Engineering at the University of Queensland, earning his degree in 1958. Jack commenced his professional career at Brown Boveri in Sydney, focusing on tasks ranging from calibrating vibration measuring equipment to designing turbines for Queensland sugar mills. His expertise led him to the company's headquarters in Switzerland, where he continued his impactful work on turbine design and manufacture.

Returning to Australia, Jack joined the Queensland Institute of Technology (QIT) in 1965, initially as a thermodynamics lecturer. Over nearly 25 years, he ascended through various leadership roles, demonstrating his commitment to hands-on learning by orchestrating overseas student experience programs and fostering the development of the Engineering School at Baggio University in the Philippines. Jack's dedication shone through in projects like the QIT student-led endeavor that resulted in a computer-controlled punch press, winning the 1988 EA National Engineering Excellence Award. His emphasis on practical engineering experiences ensured QIT graduates were readily employable.

Retiring in 1999, Jack's influence extended beyond QIT through consulting and part-time lecturing, including roles at Zhejiang University in China. In 2007, he received the prestigious James Harrison Medal from AIRAH. Jack's enduring commitment to education and engineering is reflected in his longstanding service to the Marist Brothers Old Boys Association, founding of the QIT Rugby Club and QIT Alpine Skiing Club, and active participation in various engineering committees at the state and national levels. His legacy lies not merely in numbers but in the profound positive impact he had on students, staff, and industry leaders alike.